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Maine Health Alert Network (HAN) System

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To: Health Care, City/County Health, Funeral Homes
From: Dr. Siiri Bennett, State Epidemiologist
Subject: **Temporary Updates to the Notifiable Diseases and Conditions List – SARS CoV-2 and COVID-19 Deaths**
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Temporary Updates to the Notifiable Diseases and Conditions List – SARS CoV-2 and COVID-19 Deaths

Background: Reporting of notifiable diseases and conditions is required under 22 M.R.S., Chapter 250, §802 and §822. Failure to report could result in preventable morbidity or mortality. Maine CDC is authorized to advise through publicly noticed Health Alerts the public health need for the temporary reporting of any disease or condition in the state of Maine in order to study and control any apparent outbreak or unusual occurrence of communicable diseases.

This Health Alert serves as notice for two temporary changes to the Notifiable Diseases and Conditions List:

- SARS CoV-2 samples are no longer required to be submitted to Maine’s Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) for surveillance purposes.
 - Indeterminate samples can continue to be submitted for confirmation
 - Any facility that needs validation for an EUA test can continue to work with HETL for validation purposes
- COVID-19-associated deaths should be reported directly to Maine CDC within 24 hours of the death.
 - A COVID-19-associated death is defined as a death resulting from an illness that is clinically compatible with COVID-19 that is confirmed by an appropriate laboratory test. There should be no period of complete recovery between the illness and death. It is not necessary that COVID-19 be the primary cause of death.
 - COVID-19-associated deaths can be reported by phone to 1-800-821-5821 or by fax to 1-800-293-7534
 - Reports should include the patient’s name, date of birth, and date of death

The first change will reduce the burden on laboratories to package and ship positive samples and will reserve collection and testing supplies for diagnostic purposes. HETL may still reach out to facilities to send a small number of samples to monitor the status of the outbreak by whole genome sequencing.

The second change will ensure that Maine CDC has up-to-date information on the severity of illness, and that case investigators will have the information needed to respond appropriately.

These changes will remain in effect for a period of one year but may be reassessed at any time.

For more information:

- Maine CDC COVID-19 website: www.maine.gov/dhhs/coronavirus
- Maine CDC notifiable conditions rule: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/disease-reporting/documents/notifiable-conditions.doc>